Concession rates may be given to those who use power for industrial purposes and lighting charges should be reduced to 2 annas per unit.

Second Member of Council.—The Electric Department is a commercial concern. Our charges for electric power are the lowest and are so fixed as to yield a certain percentage on the capital outlay after deducting depreciation and interest charges. Our charges are the cheapest in the whole world. Mr. Forbes has written to Government to enchance the rates of electric power. It is not possible to reduce the rates. If you are not using the power, you can just inform the authorities concerned and they will cut off the current.

Mr. Karnich Krishnamurti Rao.—Sir K. Seshadri Iyer said that the electric lighting charges would be cheaper than the price of kerosine oil. A rebate may be given once a quarter. Besides, it is unreasonable to charge metre hire at 8 annas per month. Instead, we might be allowed to buy our own metres.

Third Member of Council.—If there is no minimum charge fixed, the whole concern will be a loss.

Mr. K. T. Seshaiya.—The rates of electric power should be raised in Bangalore and Mysore as the other Districts are not enjoying this benefit.

Second Member of Council.—The rates of electric power cannot be reduced.

SUBJECT No. 148.

Tram and Telephone services.

Messrs. Venkatamuniah Setty, Arya Vaisya Mahasabha, Bangalore and Mr. Ramachandra Rao Sindhe and B.K. Puttappa, Mysore Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ramachandra Rao Sindhe.—Tram and telephone services may be introduced in Bangalore and Mysore cities as trade and industries are much hampered for want of them.

Second Member of Council.—A scheme has been prepared for extending the telephone service in Bangalore and Mysore, but it could not be given effect to on account of the war. Enquiries are being made for the necessary plant. Telephone service could be given to every house as electric power is being given. Tram service will not be a profitable concern if introduced in Mysore, but in Bangalore the re survey work is about to be started and as soon as plans and estimates are ready, further steps will be taken in the matter.